

FINAL

Networking Reception and Awards - 5 p.m.

I hope you all had a great time at the 2006 Conference for Women.

But we're not done quite yet.

First, I would like to once again thank our Steering Committee, our Sponsors, the Commission on Women, our Panelists and our DCA team, especially Stacy, Jenn, Charlotte, Jennie, Suzanne, Elvira, Janice and Amber.

This Conference would not have been possible without you.

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Wow – it's been quite a day.

Governor Corzine, Soledad O'Brian, Mary Jo Codey
Health, Education, Finance, Politics, Leadership
Networking, checking emails, making sure the kids got home from school,
Hopefully, we learned a few things along the way.
Exchanged a few business cards.
Got re-acquainted with some old pals.
Made a few new friends.
Re-charged.

As we come to the close of one day in the life,

We can light tomorrow with today. (Browning).

What we do tomorrow –

It's up to us.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world.
Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” Margaret Mead

We change ourselves –

We change the world.

We make a difference in the life of a child or in the life of a city.

“You may be disappointed if you fail, but you are doomed if you don't try.” Beverly Sills.

We make a difference in the world.

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We make our Mark.

But after all, tomorrow is another day.

Tonight, we are here to honor a very special woman with the 2006 Woman of Excellence Award.

For all of the sports fans out there, she really needs no introduction.

The master builder of basketball programs, Rutgers head coach and Women's Basketball Hall-of-Fame inductee C. Vivian Stringer has catapulted three different programs from obscurity to national prominence in her three decades as a head coach.

The first coach in men's or women's basketball to take 3 different schools to the Final 4 - Cheyney in 1982, University of Iowa in 1993 and Rutgers in 2000

Coach Stringer has been a pioneer, visionary and innovator

In 2006, she finished her 35th season with an overall career record of 750 wins to 251 losses, and 230 wins to only 116 losses in her 11 seasons at Rutgers – a phenomenal feat.

Stringer helped lead Team USA to Gold as an assistant coach for the 2004 U.S. Olympic women's basketball team in Athens, Greece.

The 2005 BIG EAST Coach of the Year, Stringer was inducted into the New Jersey Sports Hall of Fame in October of 2005.

Last season, Rutgers Women's Basketball posted a 27 wins to 5 losses overall record and a perfect 16 and 0 in the BIG EAST Conference, winning its second straight league regular-season title.

The Scarlet Knights advanced to the Sweet Sixteen of the NCAA Tournament, and finished ninth in the final top-25 polls.

In recognition of her many accomplishments and service to the game, Stringer was inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame June 9, 2001, in Knoxville, TN.

She is one of women's basketball's leading voices for equality, innovation and growth.

Coach Stringer -- HOLD UP BASKETBALL

You are certainly used to throwing a basketball -- or signing one yourself.

But, this one is an original – just for you –

It reads, “2006 Governor's Conference for Women –

Make a Difference, Make a Change, Make Your Mark.”

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It also has a very special signature on it -- You're the Best.

SIGNED – Jon S. Corzine

On behalf of the Governor, the women of New Jersey are proud to present to you
the 2006 Woman of Excellence Award.

Congratulations.

Let me close by just saying thank you all for joining us for this year's Governor's
Conference for Women.

I hope you had as great of a time as I have, and look forward to doing it again next year.

After all, tomorrow is another day ---

Now get out there and Make a Difference...Make a Change...Make Your Mark!

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